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United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

March 8, 1980

Mr. Hafizullah Karsai
President ad interim
The Afghan Islamic National Community
in Virginia, Maryland and DC
Apartment 304
3331 Hewitt Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Dear Mr. Karsai:

I am responding to your letter of February 19 to President Reagan, thanking him for his support of the people of Afghanistan.

The cause of a free and independent Afghanistan is a top foreign policy priority of this Administration. The United States has been steadfast in its opposition to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan since the day of the invasion in December, 1979, and will continue its support of the valiant mujahidin as long as this support is needed.

We also were shocked and saddened by the assassination of Professor Majrooh. He was widely respected by diplomats, scholars and journalists for his careful and independent analyses of the events of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. We share your concern about the intimidation other Afghan exiles may feel in the wake of his murder, and hope that the appropriate authorities will be able to bring his killer or killers to justice.

The Afghan people have paid a heavy price for freedom. Their long and valiant resistance to the Soviet occupation provides ample testimony of their dedication to freedom. Let us hope that this is the last year the brave people of Afghanistan will have to endure the hardship of war and suffering under foreign occupation.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Djerejian
Assistant Secretary, Acting
Bureau of Near Eastern
and South Asian Affairs

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